

First Principles.

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Controlling the Intelligence Agencies: One Year of the Carter Administration

MORTON H. HALPERIN

It is now over a year since President Jimmy Carter campaigned on a platform which included putting an end to the illegal activities of the intelligence agencies and reducing the secrecy which had surrounded the shaping of American national security policy. And it is now a year and one half since the Church and Pike Committees completed their investigations of past intelligence abuses and presented long lists of legislative proposals.

But surprisingly little has actually been done. Both the administration and the Senate Intelligence Committee have been working on comprehensive charter legislation, but no bills have been introduced in the Senate and no hearings

have been held. The House Intelligence Committee has not yet even begun work on reform charters, although the Edward's subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee is drafting a form of FBI charter. Some liberal members of the House have sponsored a comprehensive reform bill, H.R. 6051, which has the support of the ACLU and other national organizations. (See *First Principles*, May 1977). Some actions have been taken on a few specific parts of the problem and the administration has had to deal with the legacy of past abuses. This article reviews what has been done by the Carter administration, the Congress, and private groups, and it surveys what is likely to happen in 1978.

It is at all times necessary, and more particularly so during the progress of a revolution and until right ideas confirm themselves by habit, that we frequently refresh our patriotism by reference to first principles.

THOMAS PAINE

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